

Moffat County

Tammy Raschke
COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
221 W Victory Way Suite 200
Craig, CO 81625

COORDINATED ELECTION

The Election within Moffat County will be conducted
as a Mail Ballot Election on November 2, 2021
from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm

TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION
TO INCREASE TAXES, REVENUE AND SPENDING ON A REFERRED
MEASURE

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT

THIS PAMPHLET CONTAINS
SUMMARY STATEMENTS FOR
BALLOT PROPOSITIONS AS
REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF
COLORADO CONSTITUTION,
ARTICLE X, SECTION 20.

“A ‘YES’ VOTE ON ANY BALLOT
ISSUE IS A VOTE IN FAVOR OF
CHANGING CURRENT LAW OR
EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES, AND A
‘NO’ VOTE ON ANY BALLOT ISSUE IS
A VOTE AGAINST CHANGING
CURRENT LAW OR EXISTING
CIRCUMSTANCE.”

Moffat County Clerk & Recorder
OFFICE HOURS 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
221 W Victory Way Suite 200
Craig, CO 81625
(970) 824-9120

moffatCounty.colorado.gov

The November 2, 2021 Election is a Mail Ballot Election. All eligible, registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail.

EARLY VOTING, VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTER, DROP-OFF LOCATION AND REPLACEMENT BALLOT LOCATION

Clerk and Recorder's Office
221 W Victory Way Suite 200
Craig, CO 81625
October 25th through November 1st
Mondays – Fridays 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday October 30th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Excluding Sundays

ELECTION DAY November 2, 2021
7:00 am to 7:00 pm

GENERAL INFORMATION

This voter information pamphlet contains a referendum appearing on your 2021 Coordinated Election ballot.

The title and text of the referendum is printed in full, and may be accompanied by two summaries of up to 500 words each, for and against the measure. For some measures, current and recent fiscal year spending figures are included. For others, tax increase estimates or bonded debt repayment costs within a particular district have been submitted.

The mailing and content of this notice is mandated by an amendment to Article X, Section 20 (TABOR) of the Colorado Constitution.

THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PROVIDING THIS VOTERS' INFORMATION NOTICE DOES NOT WARRANT THE ACCURACY OR TRUTH OF ANY STATEMENT MADE IN THE SUMMARIES, NOR IS IT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN SPELLING, GRAMMAR, OR PUNCTUATION OF SUBMITTED STATEMENTS. RECEIPT OF THIS VOTERS' INFORMATION PAMPHLET DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT EVERY RESIDENT OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING VOTING PROCEDURES, OR YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE, REFER INITIALLY TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS NOTICE. FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL

ELECTION OFFICE LISTED BELOW OR GO TO WWW.GOVOTECOLORADO.GOV OR AT THE MOFFAT COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER'S OFFICE.

Moffat County Elections
(970) 824-9120
moffatCounty.colorado.gov

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

You may cast your ballot by any one of the following methods:

- By mail via your Mail ballot
- In person at a Voter Service Center Location

On Election Day there will be one Voter Service and Polling Center in Moffat County. A Voter Service and Polling Center is designed to provide voters with maximum flexibility and convenience. Voters may go to the Voter Service and Polling Center in the county to cast their ballots. Precinct specific polling places will not be used. At the Voter Service and Polling Center you will be required to show valid ID such as a driver's license.

We will begin mailing ballots out the week of October 8th. The last day that ballots will be mailed out is Monday October 25. Ballots may be mailed or deposited at the Ballot Drop-off Locations. Ballots must be RECEIVED by 7:00 pm on Election Day, Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Postmarked dates do not count as received.

You will also have the option of casting your vote prior to Election Day at the Voter Service and Polling Center located at the Moffat County Courthouse 221 W Victory Way, Craig, Colorado, which will be open from Monday, October 25 through Tuesday November 2. (Hours and locations are listed elsewhere in this pamphlet.)

TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES AND TO INCREASE DEBT ON A REFERRED MEASURE

MOFFAT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE#1
CRAIG, COLORADO

Election Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone
Number:

Moffat County School District RE#1
Rachel Green
600 Texas Ave, Craig, CO 81625
Telephone: (970) 826-6261

BALLOT ISSUE 4A

SHALL MOFFAT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1 DEBT BE INCREASED UP TO \$38.52 MILLION WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF UP TO \$62.95 MILLION AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY UP TO \$3.15 MILLION ANNUALLY, TO PROVIDE LOCAL MATCHING MONEY REQUIRED FOR THE DISTRICT TO RECEIVE \$6.48 MILLION IN AWARDED "BEST" GRANT FUNDS (WHICH ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE REPAID) AND FINANCE CAPITAL PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE DISTRICT'S MASTER PLANNING PROCESS INCLUDING:

- EXTENDING THE USEFUL LIFE OF EXISTING SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGH INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING ROOF REPLACEMENTS, DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, CONCRETE AND ASPHALT REPAVING, AND PLUMBING, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE;
- FACILITY UPGRADES FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY USE; AND
- SAFETY AND SECURITY UPGRADES AT ALL CAMPUSES;

WHICH DEBT SHALL CONSIST OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BEAR INTEREST, MATURE, BE SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION, WITH OR WITHOUT PREMIUM, AND BE ISSUED AT SUCH TIME, AT SUCH PRICE (AT, ABOVE OR BELOW PAR) AND IN SUCH MANNER AND CONTAINING SUCH TERMS, NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THIS BALLOT ISSUE, AS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY DETERMINE; AND SHALL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES BE LEVIED WITHOUT LIMIT AS TO THE MILL RATE TO GENERATE AMOUNTS, NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNTS SET FORTH ABOVE, SUFFICIENT IN EACH YEAR TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH DEBT AND TO FUND ANY RESERVES FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF?

Yes/For: No/Against:

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending ¹
2017-2018 (actual)	\$25,621,818
2018-2019 (actual)	27,725,269
2019-2020 (actual)	29,162,479
2020-2021 (unaudited)	30,815,210
2021-2022 (current year estimated)	34,230,475

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over the five year period from 2017-2018 through 2021-2022: 33.60%

¹ Fiscal year spending includes amounts expended by the District for bonded debt service.

Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five year period from 2017-2018 through 2021-2022: \$8,608,657

Estimated 2021-2022 fiscal year spending without taking into account the tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 4A: \$34,230,475

Estimated 2021-2022 tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 4A: \$3,150,000

Information regarding bonded debt proposed by Ballot Issue 4A (on a calendar year basis):

Principal amount:	\$38,520,000
Maximum annual repayment cost:	\$ 3,150,000
Maximum total repayment cost:	\$62,950,000

Information regarding current bonded debt (on a calendar year basis):

Principal balance:	\$13,905,000
Maximum annual repayment cost:	\$ 2,300,900
Maximum remaining total repayment cost:	\$15,843,000

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue No. 4A:

4A is a once-in-a-generation investment into our public schools that will allow our district to receive \$6.48 million in state funding to update, secure, and repair every Moffat County public school with critical infrastructure repairs, modernized classrooms equipped to deliver a 21st century education, and updated security systems.

A master plan completed in 2018 provided a comprehensive look at all the buildings in our district. This plan outlined \$100 million in repairs, corrections and upgrades that would be needed to bring the buildings up-to-date. A committee went through these repairs/updates very carefully to prioritize the ones that were the most urgent, bringing the total down to \$45 million. The district applied for and was granted \$6.48 million in a BEST grant, bringing the bond ask total to \$38.52 million. We do not receive the BEST grant money unless the bond issue is passed. We should not give away \$6.48 million dollars.

The school district has been working to repair and replace things on a schedule that is within our budget.

The bond for the building of the middle school will be expiring about the same time as the scheduled shut down of the mines and power plant. The timing of this bond is to try and maximize the tax relief that those large organizations provide in the way of tax base. Businesses that may be looking at coming to Craig and Moffat County will look at how we support our schools and how they are doing in addition to what amenities we, as a community, have to offer. Maintaining our buildings is not an option,

but a priority. We as a community need to step up and make a sacrifice for the good of all the students in our community. They are our future! Voters can see how every dollar is planned to be spent, down to the penny, at the District's website. A summary of the repairs and update follows:

Moffat County High School

Improve Safety and Security, Improve Educational Environment, Improve Athletic and Community Spaces
Reinvest in Critical Infrastructure: Roofing, Asphalt/Concrete, Exterior, Drainage, Windows, Plumbing

Craig Middle School

Improve Safety and Security, Athletic and Community Spaces
Reinvest in Critical Infrastructure: Mechanical, Drainage, Sewage

Early Childhood Center

Improve School Safety and Security, Improve Educational Environments
Reinvest in Critical Infrastructure: Asphalt/Concrete, Drainage, Plumbing

Maybell Elementary School

Improve School Safety and Security, Improve Educational Environments
Reinvest in Critical Infrastructure: Plumbing, Exterior, Roofing

Ridgeview Elementary School

Improve Safety and Security, Improve Educational Environment, and Athletic and Community Spaces
Reinvest in Critical Infrastructure: Drainage, Sewage, Asphalt/Concrete, Plumbing

Sandrock Elementary School

Improve Safety and Security, Improve Educational Environments, Athletic and Community Spaces
Reinvest in Critical Infrastructure: Concrete/Asphalt, Drainage, Plumbing

Sunset Elementary School

Improve Safety and Security, Educational Environment
Reinvest in Critical Infrastructure: Exterior, Sewage, Windows, Drainage, Plumbing, Asphalt

**Summary of Written Comments AGAINST
Ballot Issue No. 4A:**

BALLOT ISSUE (4A) is seeking approval of the voters to allow Moffat County School District (MCSD) to acquire additional debt in the amount of \$38.52 Million with a repayment amount of \$62.95 Million. This additional debt will come with a repayment obligation, resulting in a property tax increase up to \$3.15 Million annually. In today's economic snapshot of Moffat County, Property Taxes could see an increase of over 7 Mills to meet this annual responsibility. If Ballot Issue (4A) is approved, the MCSD will have the right to increase the mill levy to an undetermined amount in the future as needed to maintain the \$3.15 Million annual debt payment which the voters agreed to. Beware, as we look toward the future of Moffat County and the revenue void that will be created when the Power Plant and Coal Mines close, a huge financial

burden will be shuffled over to the remaining property owners. The Mill Levy will see a substantial increase in order to meet the \$3.15 Million annual payment obligation. A 7 Mill increase alone would add nearly \$100.00 to the annual property tax levied on an average price home in the Greater Craig Area.

MCSD currently has an annual General Fund Revenue of over \$25 Million. School District management has a responsibility to budget and distribute this revenue within the School District. Allocating funds to maintain facilities is as important as allocating funds necessary for education. Lack of annual building maintenance and a desire to play catch-up is not a justifiable reason to increase the tax burden on Moffat County Residents when maintaining these facilities is something that should be budgeted and performed on a regular scheduled basis.

Even though MCSD is eager to engage in a huge amount of additional debt, they have willingly offered to relinquish a percentage of their potential revenue stream to the newly formed Urban Renewal Authority, basically taking a portion of their future revenue and placing it on the Roulette Wheel. Moffat County already has an extremely high tax rate compared to its neighboring Counties of Routt and Rio Blanco; this rate is also greater than the majority of Counties on the Western Slope. Moffat County residents do not need an additional tax burden levied against them. A No vote will spare Moffat County from an additional tax burden while promoting frugal money management and efficiency within MCSD.

**TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES**

MOFFAT COUNTY HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT

Election Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Moffat County Health Service District
Micki Mills, Collins, Cockrel & Cole
390 Union Blvd, Ste 400
Lakewood, CO 80228
Telephone: (303) 218-7206

BALLOT ISSUE 6B

SHALL MOFFAT COUNTY HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$1,066,654 IN COLLECTION YEAR 2022, AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS MAY BE COLLECTED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF A LEVY OF 2.5 MILLS TO PAY DISTRICT OPERATING, MAINTENANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER EXPENSES; AND SHALL SUCH TAXES AND ALL OTHER DISTRICT REVENUES BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE, RETENTION OR
SPENDING LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW?

Yes/For:

No/Against:

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

2021 (estimated)	\$0
2020 (actual)	\$0
2019 (actual)	\$0
2018 (actual)	\$0
2017 (actual)	\$0

Overall percentage change from 2017 to 2021: N/A%

Overall dollar change from 2017 to 2021: 0

**Summary of Written Comments FOR
Ballot Issue No. 6B:**

If the County had to cut back or stop providing EMS services, it would be disastrous. A Moffat County Health Service District to support our local ambulance and EMS will provide the needed resources for coordinated, independent, and dependable emergency response to all Moffat County residents. It also provides residents of Moffat County a say and a vote over how our tax dollars are spent. We will no longer rely on the hospital or any other organization to meet the emergency response service needs of our County.

By voting YES to create the Health Service District, the District will continue emergency response services, improve coordination for every community within the county, give residents local control over local tax dollars, equip every ambulance with the necessary tools to respond to any emergency, and provide a sustainable revenue stream to keep our families safe. A health service district will give the County the ease of knowing that the safety of all residents and our visitors is not in financial jeopardy. The tax will not increase in the coming years. It will be steady at 2.5 mills.

Moffat County is on the verge of drastic cuts to EMS services for our residents and the visitors that contribute to our local economy. The Health Services District will take control of an independent EMS service, have the resources to fully fund and support our EMS, and will completely eliminate Memorial Regional Health's control over EMS services. All existing EMS equipment, including ambulances, will be gifted at no cost to the newly formed Health Service District. Voting YES for the health services district ensures much needed financial support and continued, consistent, and independent EMS services throughout the county.

Our community cannot go without the first responders who save lives during emergencies. This Health Service District will ensure we have the resources to keep our community safe and open for business. Voting YES for the Health Service District is a yes for health and safety a yes for control and stability, and a yes for safe and fun recreation and tourism.

**Summary of Written Comments AGAINST
Ballot Issue No. 6B:**

BALLOT ISSUE (6B), is a Mill Levy increase of 2.5 mills, intended to establish a dedicated revenue stream in support of a County wide EMS District. If successful, this tax funded Employment Platform in Moffat County will come at an additional cost to the taxpayer of more than \$1,000,000 annually. Memorial Regional Health (MRH) which has been providing the EMS since 1990 reported a monetary loss for this department in 2012 between \$100,000 and \$200,000, in 2020 the reported loss had increased more than 400% to \$675,000. The proposed EMS taxing District will be maintaining a close relationship with administrative ties to the same entity reporting the tremendous financial losses. Cloaking tremendous losses with additional tax dollars is unacceptable. It is also unacceptable to promote a revenue stream that is \$400,000 in excess of the reported unrecoverable expenses. The Community has heard nothing in the way of cost control or intentions to address inefficiencies within the EMS department. This proposal comes to the Ballot Box under a cloud of ethical concerns, sighting potential conflicts of interest and lack of transparency.

Moffat County Property Tax Rate is already considerably greater than its neighboring Counties of Routt and Rio Blanco, also topping most Counties on the Western Slope. Not only will this proposal add to the currently high rate, but Ballot Issue (6B) is also asking the people to allow the proposed EMS Tax District to be exempt of all applicable laws under the Colorado Constitution regulating the retention and spending of collected revenue.

A no vote on BALLOT ISSUE 6B will promote cost control and efficiency within the existing EMS Department, while leaving hard earned dollars in the pockets of the residents, to be utilized at their own discretion.

**ATTEST: THE FOREGOING BALLOT ISSUE
NOTICE IS COMPLETE AS SUBMITTED BY THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.**



Tammy Raschke

Tammy Raschke

FROM:
MOFFAT COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
221 W Victory Way Suite 200
Craig, CO 81625
Telephone: (970) 824-9120



PRSRT STD
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Denver, CO
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OFFICIAL ELECTION MATERIAL

FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN THIS HOUSEHOLD:

**THIS NOTICE IS MAILED TO EACH ADDRESS WITH ONE OR MORE
ACTIVE, REGISTERED ELECTORS. YOU MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE
TO VOTE ON ALL ISSUES PRESENTED.**

POSTMASTER, DELIVER TO

NOTICE OF ELECTION

**TO INCREASE TAXES, REVENUE AND SPENDING ON A
REFERRED MEASURE**

**TO BE COUNTED
MAIL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE NO LATER THAN
7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021 BY MAIL OR
AT A BALLOT DROP-OFF SITE**

A Publication of Moffat County
October 2021